

REMARKS

According to the Advisory Action mailed February 24, 2009, the amendment to claim 29 filed on February 11, 2009 has not been entered, and has been repeated above, together with an amendment to claim 15.

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the interview granted by Examiners Nguyen and Desai on February 17, 2009. At that interview, the differences between the invention and the Barthalon et al reference were discussed, and the Examiners made suggestions for amendments to claim 15 to establish that the end chambers of the invention were sealed to a degree not found in Barthalon et al. The lack of sealing of the end chambers of Barthalon et al was discussed in the Amendment filed on February 11, 2009.

Claim 15 has now been amended to recite that the opposed end chambers are sealed sufficiently that at each end of the piston there is formed a gas spring of a pressure of at least 10 bar. The value of 10 bar was previously found in claim 20, which has been canceled. Claim 21, previously dependent from claim 20, has been amended to depend from claim 15.

Applicants submit that the claims are clearly distinguished from the disclosure of Barthalon et al.

Respectfully submitted,



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